

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the election requirement dated June 29, 2004 Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Invention I, Claims 1-24, drawn towards an apparatus having a central controller, classified in class 700, subclass 9, for further examination on the merits.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17-22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 32, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42-69 have been amended. Support for the changes to Claim 1 is found, for example, in Applicants' Figure 27 disclosure as described at page 26, lines 3-14 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Furthermore, while the Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct inventions, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Although the outstanding Official Action identifies different search classifications, it is believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in a handful of sub-classes. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without substantial additional effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-69 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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